

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 31, 1891, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B., Thurs., Dec 31st, 1891. Mrs. A. G. Bell, % Macquay & Hooker & Co., Florence, Italy. My darling Mabel:

It is now three o'clock a. m. of January 1st, 1892 — I am tired out — but I cannot let New Year's eve pass entirely away without writing at least a few lines to wish you and Elsie and Daisy — a Happy New Year and many of them.

I send you a violet plucked at Beinn Bhreagh today — to show you this is not a very dreadful climate after all.

Some very promising flying machine experiments made tonight just before the close of the New Year. New boiler gave 192 rotations per minute. As machine was 30 inches between wings — the nozzle travelled three times this distance — or 90 inches at each rotation. And as 192 rotations around each minute — the nozzle moved at the rate of 192 times 90 inches per minute. That is a velocity of 1440 feet per minute — or 24 feet per second. This is promising.

Spent evening with Ladies Club — Grand meeting. Then Laboratory till 12 o'clock. Mr. McCurdy and Mr. McInnis have finished up accounts for year — and both of them stayed up — giving me the items till half-past two. I had to send them away — but I am tired out and must defer all journal details until tomorrow.

A Happy New Year to you all not forgetting Charles.

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Your loving husband, Alec.